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Howard P. Buck McKee

M.C.

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CONGRESSMAN

Buck McKeon

*Medicare Update: More Choices, Better Benefits,
and Quality Health Care for Every Senior*

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Mark Your Calendar for a Town Hall Meeting on Medicare

Tuesday, April 13, 2004 ★ 4:00 pm

Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center ★ 22900 Market Street ★ Newhall, CA 91321

"Please join me for a town hall meeting on the improvements to Medicare and the new prescription drug benefit. Ms. Leslie V. Norwalk, Acting Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will join me as a special guest to answer your questions."

— Congressman Buck McKeon

Congressman Buck McKeon's

2004 UPDATE ON A STRONGER MEDICARE WITH A

Prescription Drug Benefit

Immediate Relief through Discounts off Retail Prices

By mid 2004, seniors will be offered a Medicare-endorsed prescription drug discount card to help them afford their prescription medicines. When using the card, seniors will save an estimated 10% to 25% off the retail prices of most drugs.

Better Benefits For Every Senior

How much do you have to pay for prescription drugs out-of-pocket under the old Medicare?

- ✓ You already know the answer. Today, you pay 100% of the cost of prescription drugs if you do not have any other insurance.

How much will you pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs thanks to this new Medicare benefit?

- ✓ Approximately \$35 per month premium.
- ✓ \$250 annual deductible.
- ✓ You pay 25% of the costs of prescription drugs up to \$2,250 in total spending.
- ✓ After paying \$3,600 out-of-pocket in any year, you would be responsible for only 5% of the costs or a small copayment.

Congressman McKeon: Helping Those Who Need Help the Most

Additional Benefits for Low-Income Beneficiaries

Seniors with incomes below \$12,372 for an individual and \$16,608 for a couple will:

- ✓ Receive immediate assistance through a \$600 annual subsidy to apply toward purchasing their medicines on the Medicare-endorsed prescription drug discount card.
- ✓ Pay no monthly premium, no deductible, and only \$2 for generic and preferred multiple source drugs and \$5 for other prescription drugs, with no coverage limit effective in 2006.

AARP Endorsed —

The AARP, which is the largest seniors organization representing more than 26 million Americans 60 and older, has strongly endorsed this legislation. The AARP has given its seal of approval because the AARP knows that this bill is good for seniors.

Better Care from Medicare

- ✓ **100% Voluntary** — You can choose to stay in traditional Medicare.
- ✓ **Choices** — You have the freedom to decide which health plan (public or private) works best for you.
- ✓ **Savings** — You can save money through new health savings accounts.
- ✓ **Discount Card** — You receive immediate relief through an interim drug discount card, made available by mid 2004, which will provide significant, immediate savings up to 25% off retail prices seniors are currently paying.

Please visit my website to learn more about Medicare, including how much you will save on prescription drugs. You can also sign up for a monthly online newsletter and for updates on the issues that matter most to you and your family.

<http://www.house.gov/mckeon>

